Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

subject application:

Claims 1-7 (canceled).

8. (currently amended) An apparatus for printing color inkjet images, comprising:

an image processing unit which processes source color data to generate output color data

together with a signal indicative of an order of ink squirts in which a plurality of inks of

respective colors are squirted onto a given pixel; and

an inkjet print unit which is configured to squirt the plurality of inks in different orders of

ink squirts, and prints color images based on the output color data by squirting the inks in the

order of ink squirts indicated by said signal,

wherein said image processing unit includes:

image processing units which correspond to the different orders of ink squirts,

respectively, and process the source color data to generate respective output color data; and

a selecting unit which selects the order of ink squirts from the different orders of

ink squirts, and selects one of said image processing units accordingly, thereby outputting the

output color data together with the signal indicative of the order of ink squirts ~~The apparatus as~~

~~claimed in claim 4~~,

wherein said selecting unit refers to amounts of ink consumption required by said inkjet

print unit to print the color images with respect to the different orders of ink squirts, and selects

the order of ink squirts as requiring a least amount of ink consumption.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for printing color inkjet images, comprising:

an image processing unit which processes source color data to generate output color data together with a signal indicative of an order of ink squirts in which a plurality of inks of respective colors are squirted onto a given pixel; and

an inkjet print unit which is configured to squirt the plurality of inks in different orders of ink squirts, and prints color images based on the output color data by squirting the inks in the order of ink squirts indicated by said signal,

wherein said image processing unit includes:

image processing units which correspond to the different orders of ink squirts, respectively, and process the source color data to generate respective output color data; and

a selecting unit which selects the order of ink squirts from the different orders of ink squirts, and selects one of said image processing units accordingly, thereby outputting the output color data together with the signal indicative of the order of ink squirts ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 4~~,

wherein said selecting unit refers to a gamut of colors reproducible by said inkjet print unit with respect to each of the different orders of ink squirts, and selects the order of ink squirts as being optimum in terms of representing a gamut of colors of the source color data.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for printing color inkjet images, comprising:

an image processing unit which processes source color data to generate output color data together with a signal indicative of an order of ink squirts in which a plurality of inks of respective colors are squirted onto a given pixel; and

an inkjet print unit which is configured to squirt the plurality of inks in different orders of ink squirts, and prints color images based on the output color data by squirting the inks in the

order of ink squirts indicated by said signal,

wherein said image processing unit includes:

image processing units which correspond to the different orders of ink squirts, respectively, and process the source color data to generate respective output color data; and

a selecting unit which selects the order of ink squirts from the different orders of ink squirts, and selects one of said image processing units accordingly, thereby outputting the output color data together with the signal indicative of the order of ink squirts ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 4~~,

wherein said selecting unit refers to a mode selected by a user, and selects the order of ink squirts as being optimum in view of the selected mode.

Claims 11-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method of printing color inkjet images, comprising the steps of:

selecting an order of ink squirts based on source color data;

processing the source color data to generate output color data; and

printing color images based on the output color data by squirting inks from an inkjet print head in the selected order of ink squirts ~~The method as claimed in claim 14~~,

wherein said step of selecting the order of ink squirts includes the steps of:

obtaining a gamut of reproducible colors with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts; and

selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained gamut of reproducible colors.

16. (currently amended) A method of printing color inkjet images, comprising the steps of:

selecting an order of ink squirts based on source color data;

processing the source color data to generate output color data; and

printing color images based on the output color data by squirting inks from an inkjet print head in the selected order of ink squirts The method as claimed in claim 14,

wherein said step of selecting the order of ink squirts includes the steps of:

obtaining amounts of ink consumption required for printing the color images with respect to different orders of ink squirts; and

selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained amounts of ink consumption.

17. (currently amended) A method of printing color inkjet images, comprising the steps of:

selecting an order of ink squirts based on source color data;

processing the source color data to generate output color data; and

printing color images based on the output color data by squirting inks from an inkjet print head in the selected order of ink squirts The method as claimed in claim 14,

wherein said step of selecting the order of ink squirts includes the steps of:

obtaining a gamut of reproducible colors and amounts of ink consumption required for printing the color images with respect to each of different orders of ink squirts; and

selecting the order of ink squirts based on the obtained gamut of reproducible colors and the obtained amounts of ink consumption.

Claim 18 (canceled).

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~14~~ 15, wherein said inkjet print head includes a plurality of nozzle lines, which are arranged in a main-scan direction, and are each comprised of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a sub-scan direction, said plurality of nozzle lines including two or more nozzle lines of the same ink color and at least one nozzle line of a different ink color between said two or more nozzle lines.

20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said plurality of nozzle lines are symmetrically arranged in respect of a center axis that extends perpendicularly to the main-scan direction.

21. (new) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said inkjet print head includes a plurality of nozzle lines, which are arranged in a main-scan direction, and are each comprised of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a sub-scan direction, said plurality of nozzle lines including two or more nozzle lines of the same ink color and at least one nozzle line of a different ink color between said two or more nozzle lines.

22. (new) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said plurality of nozzle lines are symmetrically arranged in respect of a center axis that extends perpendicularly to the main-scan direction.

23. (new) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said inkjet print head includes a

plurality of nozzle lines, which are arranged in a main-scan direction, and are each comprised of a plurality of nozzles arranged in a sub-scan direction, said plurality of nozzle lines including two or more nozzle lines of the same ink color and at least one nozzle lines of a different ink color between said two or more nozzle lines.

24. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said plurality of nozzle lines are symmetrically arranged in respect of a center axis that extends perpendicularly to the main-scan direction.